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# Biography of Judge Donald P. Lay

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## BIOGRAPHY

Judge Donald P. Lay was appointed United States Circuit Court Judge for the Eighth Circuit on July 22, 1966, and entered on duty August 26, 1966. At the time of his appointment, the White House announced that, at age 39, he was the second youngest judge to be appointed to the United States Court of Appeals. He became Chief Judge on January 1, 1980, and took senior status January 7, 1992. He was a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States from 1980 to 1991.

Judge Lay attended the United States Naval Academy and graduated from the University of Iowa with a B.A. degree in 1949 and a J.D. degree in 1951. He is a member of the Order of the Coif, and received an honorary Doctor of Laws from William Mitchell College of Law in 1985. He served in the United States Navy, 1944-1945; on the Judicial Conference Committee on Trial Practice and Technique, 1969-1970; as a Consultant to the Federal Judicial Center's Advisory Committee on State-Federal Relations, 1968-1970; on the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules, 1973-1978; and on the Executive Board of the American Judicature Society, 1979-1982. He serves on the Board of Elders in the House of Hope Presbyterian Church of St. Paul, Minnesota. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Nebraska Bar Association, and the Iowa Bar Association. He is on the Board of Directors of the Pretrial Resource Center. He is an honorary member of the American Trial Lawyers Association, and the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers.

He was awarded a judicial achievement award as the Outstanding Federal Appellate Judge of the Year in 1982 by the American Trial Lawyers. He is a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and a recipient of the Hancher-Finkbine Award, given by the University of Iowa. On October 18, 1988, Judge Lay was awarded the American Judicature Society's Herbert Harley Award in recognition of his contribution to the administration of justice. He has authored over fifty articles in legal periodicals and journals in the areas of trial and appellate advocacy and judicial administration.

Judge Lay is married to the former Miriam Elaine Gustafson and has five daughters: Catherine Sue, Cynthia Lynn, Elizabeth Ann, Deborah Jean, and Susan Elaine.